

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

## CLITUS H. KING GONE WHEN INVESTIGATION OF FRAUDS IS BEGUN

Men Whose Names Are Alleged to Have Been Forged on Mortgages Make Complaint to State's Attorney and Ask That Fairfield Lawyer Be Prosecuted.

TOWN IS IN UPROAR AT STORIES OF MANY FRAUDULENT MORTGAGE LOANS

Specific Complaint is That Town Clerk Flint's Name was Forged, Along With Others, on Document Whereby Loan of \$1,700 Was Negotiated From Ridgefield Savings Bank.

In response to complaints of town officials and other residents of Fairfield, the legal machinery of the State's attorney's office was set in motion today to investigate a financial transaction whereby Attorney Clitus H. King, of Fairfield, is alleged to have fraudulently obtained \$1,700 from a Ridgefield bank.

Rumors of other complaints against Attorney King, involving the names of some prominent residents of Bridgeport and Fairfield, were rife in Fairfield today. The old town is in an uproar over the possibilities of sensational developments following the steps for legal action against one of its most prominent residents.

Attorney King has been missing from his home for several days. His family is grief-stricken at his sudden disappearance, following the dissemination of ugly rumors connected with his name. His law offices, in the Warner building, this city, have not been visited by him for many days.

Complaint against Attorney King was made to State's Attorney Homer S. Cummings by prominent Fairfield folk, including Joseph I. Flint, the Republican town clerk. It is alleged that "Town Clerk Flint's name was forged to a supposed mortgage used by King in his transactions with the Ridgefield bank. The name of Frank Saum, one of the owners of the property purported to be mortgaged, was also forged during the deal, it is charged.

According to the story that has set the town of Fairfield by the ears, Attorney King, some time ago, sought a loan of \$1,700 from the Ridgefield Savings Bank. He offered as security what purported to be a mortgage on property owned jointly by Dominick Merucio and Frank Saum. The property is located opposite Pickett's store in Fairfield.

Attorney King, so the story goes, had done much title searching in this county for the Ridgefield bank. His security was accepted without question. The supposed mortgage had every appearance of being bona fide, and carried volume and page numbers of the Fairfield town records. It also bore the signature "Joseph I. Flint."

Mr. Flint denies that he ever affixed his name to the paper, and this

formed one of the bases for his complaint to the state's attorney. Saum's name, as well as that of Justice Bacon Wakeman appeared on the supposed mortgage, the latter as attorney in the transfer. It is alleged that both signatures are forgeries.

Following the bank's acceptance of the paper as security, everything went smoothly for a time. It is said that interest payments were made and the bank believed the security valid. Then came the Ridgefield Congregational church, seeking to invest surplus funds in realty securities. The "mortgage" presented by Attorney King, was offered by the bank as one of a group of preferred investments.

The church society forwarded the supposed deed to the town clerk's office in Fairfield, asking that a record be made of the transfer of the debt to the church.

Then came the explosion that has shaken Fairfield to its very foundations. Town Clerk Flint could find no record of the deed in his books. He wrote to Ridgefield asking the bank for further information. His letter brought a bank official to Fairfield. Then it was discovered that Mr. Flint's name had been affixed to the paper without his knowledge.

(Continued on Page 5.)

## FIND NO BODIES AS BATTERED HULK OF U. S. SUBMARINE F-4 IS PLACED IN HONOLULU DOCK

Honolulu, Aug. 31.—Exposure of the hulk of the United States submarine F-4 lost with her crew of 22 men in Honolulu harbor March 25, failed today to reveal any trace of the bodies of the crew or to throw any light on the cause of the accident. After being raised from a depth of 300 feet the submarine was placed in drydock yesterday. The pumping out of the drydock was completed last night.

Today the F-4 lies on her starboard side in the drydock. When the examining board, composed of Rear Admiral C. J. Bush, Chief Commander Julius A. Furer and Lieut. Kirby B. Krittenden, entered the vessel they found the starboard side and bottom filled with debris, battery plates, sand and mud.

If any bodies remained in the hulk they are under the debris. Doubt was expressed as to whether any would be found since the great holes torn in the submarine, only part of which were protected by mats during the months of raising operations, allowed the marine creatures, with which the waters of Hawaii swarm, to enter and it was feared the bodies of the crew had been entirely destroyed. Naval officers said the debris would be removed from the vessel to-day and a thorough search made for bodies.

In addition to gapping holes torn in the submarine a bog hole has been torn in the forward part. The investigating board has not definitely ascertained whether the holes caused the loss of the vessel or whether they were torn during lifting operations.

MRS. SCULLY TO TALK TO SALT'S CO. WORKERS

A meeting will be held at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in Eagles' hall, of the Salt's Textile Co. strikers. Mrs. Mary Scully will address the meeting.

The situation at the plant is unchanged. The strikers are still waiting the return of F. E. Kip, head of the firm.

MIDDIES ON WAY HOME.

Panama, Aug. 31.—The battleships Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin, with 600 midshipmen who are on the annual practice cruise, arrived at Panama today on their return from the Panama-Pacific Exposition and passed through the canal.

## FRANCE PREPARES TO FACE ANOTHER WINTER CAMPAIGN

Minister of War Returns From Conference With Field Leaders on Plans.

BRIDGE BLOWN UP AT CONSTANTINOPLE

German Hangars at Ghent, Belgium, Are Attacked by Airmen of Allies.

Paris, Aug. 31.—France is preparing for next winter's campaign. An official note issued here today describes a visit to the front by Alexander Millerand, minister of war. M. Millerand discussed measures necessary for the winter campaign with commanders at various points, especially in the Vosges and Alsace.

TURKISH BRIDGE BLOWN UP

London, Aug. 31.—Athens despatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says that a submarine of the allies has blown up a portion of the bridge between Constantinople and the suburb of Galata. It is not apparent whether this is merely an echo of the similar report of several weeks ago which brought forth a denial from Constantinople.

GERMAN HANGAR SHELLED

Amsterdam, Aug. 31.—A telegram received here from Maasbode says that aviators of the allies destroyed last Saturday a large building at Ghent, Belgium, used by the Germans for housing aircraft.

TEUTONIC INVADERS CONTINUE SUCCESSES

London, Aug. 31.—The Russian armies along the line of the upper Bug and the Zlota Lipa are being withdrawn rapidly and, apparently, without great loss as neither London nor Berlin claims any extensive captures of prisoners or booty in this region. In the center of the line, due east of Warsaw, the invaders continue to make steady progress, while further north they are advancing more slowly. The fall of Lipka brings the attacking forces nearer Grodno, the last big fortress on the front to be retained by the Russians.

Along the western front the usual artillery, mine and hand grenade warfare marks the operations. According to Paris, these activities have resulted in the destruction of several German trenches.

Constantinople again reports heavy fighting at the Dardanelles, but the entente allies are silent in regard to their military operations on this front. In the Austro-Italian campaign Rome reports the capture of Cima Clata, 500 feet high. This summit had commanded the Italian positions on Monte Salvio.

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## UNIONS WILL INVOKE LAW TO PUNISH MANUFACTURERS USING BLACKLIST TO COERCE WORKER

### STRIKE BREAKERS WHO QUIT AT FREIGHT YARDS ARRESTED FOR "TRESPASS ON RAILROAD"

Informed of Actual Conditions, They Leave Jobs, Start to Walk Tracks to City Center, And Are Taken Into Custody By Policemen.

After being informed that they had been brought to this city to serve as strike breakers at the Whiting street freight house of the New Haven road, Dick Ragan and Tom Foley, two young men from Boston, left their jobs at the freight house this morning and started to make their way to the center of the city by way of the railroad trestle with the result that they were apprehended in the vicinity of Wall street by Sergeant John O'Connell and Policeman Martin Gottschalk at 1:30 this afternoon and locked up charged with trespassing on railroad property.

Foley said that he and his pal had been approached at Church and Melrose streets in Boston Saturday morning by a pompous looking individual who offered them a good job and promised to pay them \$1.75 a day with board and lodging.

They were informed that there was no strike at the place they were headed for, there being only a little trouble among a few truckers. They boarded the special passenger train which was crowded with about 150 strike breakers.

From Boston they went to Providence and thence to Bridgeport, Providence being the only stopping place on the entire trip. The strike breakers were not informed of their destination until suddenly the brakeman thundered out: "Bridgeport" and with that they were ordered to disembark.

Foley stated to a Farmer reporter this afternoon that the sleeping apartments of the strike breakers consisted of two freight cars in which have been erected sleeping bunks, a tier of three on each side of the freight car. He also stated that the menu afforded the strike breakers consisted of soup for breakfast; pork chops for dinner; and soup for supper with plenty of ice water to wash it down.

On going to work this morning Foley noticed a large crowd of foreigners loitering in the vicinity of the freight house and on being informed that they were the strikers and that he was taking their jobs he immediately asked for his money.

Both Foley and Ragan will be arraigned in city court tomorrow morning to answer the charge of trespassing on railroad property.

Stanley Teller, agent of the New Haven road, made the complaint.

### STRIKE-BREAKERS AT HENKELS LACE COMPANY QUIT; PLANT TO BE CLOSED SOON, LEADERS SAY

Renewed activities by pickets against the Henkels Lace factory on Connecticut avenue caused 15 girls, who had returned to work to rejoin the strikers this morning. It is predicted by the leaders that the entire shop will be closed before the end of the week.

An attempt to bring lace workers from Newark, N. J., and other points close to New York was detected early today with the result that several of the strike-breakers were induced to return to their homes. They did not know, they said, that a strike was in progress here.

Thomas F. McMahon, organizer of the United Textile Workers, learned today, he said, of at least one instance where policemen had roughly taken a small girl employed in the picket line. He will investigate the affair and again confer with Superintendent Eugene Birmingham, asking that policemen be compelled to remain on their respective posts and that their feelings as long as order is being maintained.

The attitude of many policemen has been found by strike leaders to be against the pickets. While this is only natural where individual policemen fear there will be trouble in many instances it is uncalculated for and has probably been stimulated by talks with employers," said Mr. McMahon. "Nevertheless," he continued, "in my talk with Superintendent of Police Eugene Birmingham and from conferences with other labor leaders, I must say that we all have found the superintendent very fair, as long as law and order is observed and that is our policy. To live within the law."

"It is not Henkels we are after, as you are intimating, but the system whereby it is aimed to pay employees of the concern \$4.40 per week. No girl or woman can live on that wage and the policy must be abolished."

According to leaders of the Henkels strike no girl employed in the factory is permitted to make over \$10 maximum per week. Should she be able to do this a "hold out" system is put into effect.

Reports made at Eagles' hall today that 15 girls had left the factory today was hailed with joy and picketing is being done with renewed vigor.

### WINDOW WASHERS' STRIKE SETTLED; VICTORY FOR MEN

Get Pay They Had For 14 Hours, For Nine Hours Working Day.

The strike of the window washers of the city was settled at 4 o'clock this afternoon when the five managers of companies employing window washers acceded to all the requests of the strikers.

Fourteen hours' pay for five hours' less work will be received. Pay will be given even though the weather conditions necessitate laying off men. Time and a half for overtime after 4 p. m. and double time for Sunday work will be allowed. If the men miss a day during the week, they agree to work on Sunday.

Twenty men joined the organization this morning. Virtually every window washer was on strike.

Corset Workers Decide Tomorrow On Parade Plans

A mass meeting of all the corset shop workers in the city will be held tomorrow evening in Eagles' hall. The business of the meeting will be to decide the advisability of taking part in a body at the Labor Day in New Haven.

More than 5,000 corset workers in Bridgeport have been affected by the strike for better conditions and a parade Labor Day is looked upon as a fitting way in which to celebrate the success that attended the movement.

Manufacturers' Association is Target For Sharp Criticism of Labor Organizers When Girl Strikers of Bias Narrow Fabric Co. Report Alleged Threats of Superintendent.

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS OF METAL WORKERS HANDLE REMINGTON CRISIS

General Strike of Factories Where Black List is Sanctioned By Owners Would Be Extreme Measure Adopted, Explain Organizers, If Tactics Such as Are Threatened, Are Followed.

The first legal action instituted in this city by strikers since the great movement for better working conditions began here, is likely to be taken by the employees of the Bias Narrow Fabric Co., backed by the American Federation of Labor.

J. Price Morris, superintendent of the factory, is quoted by the girls' committee as having threatened yesterday, that if any of them sought a job in another plant, he would call the officials of the concern on the telephone and prevent them from hiring the strikers.

The girls' committee called upon Mr. Morris yesterday afternoon, they said this morning at the meeting in Eagles' hall, and asked him if he were prepared to recognize the committee of employees to review grievances. He refused. The girls say that they asserted they would continue on strike and that doubtless many of them would obtain positions in other places, as they have been offered.

According to the girls, Mr. Morris said: "If any of you girls go to another factory in any part of the state, I will tell the manager not to hire you. You will all be put on the blacklist."

Mrs. Mary Scully, organizer of the A. F. of L., was astounded, this morning, at this. "Haven't you a legal aid bureau in this city where poor persons can go for advice?" she asked. She was told there is none. "There doesn't appear to be anything for a poor person in this city," she said.

The girls were urged to wait for a specific instance when Mr. Morris attempts to blacklist a person who had been employed in his factory, and then retain a lawyer to bring legal action.

"Why, that's a state's prison offense," Mrs. Scully said. The girls say that when they called upon the superintendent yesterday he urged them all to go back. "How do we know that you won't fire us in a few weeks, after things are quiet?" the girls say they retorted. According to them, Mr. Morris said he would put up a bond that he would not discharge any girl that didn't want to leave, provided she did her work.

This plan didn't appeal to the girls. They wanted their shop committee. When it was refused they agreed to remain on strike.

Three persons have returned to the factory. One of them belongs to the girls' union. Under the misapprehension that she would be harmed by pickets last night, they say, she ran from the factory down a side street.

The girls say they congregated about the factory yesterday at noon, and the superintendent thought they were coming back to work. He greeted them with smiles, which disappeared when he found they were merely picketing.

Superintendent Morris is doing the cutting in the factory, the girls say, and his three workers are attempting to do the stitching. The office assistants are running the gang machines.

Bridgeport may yet have a general strike call issued which will involve every class of work in every factory in Bridgeport if the Manufacturers Association is proven to have meddled in the affairs of individual factories of this city and persists in such an attitude.

"If the Manufacturers' Association does not stop meddling in individual factories here, we will call a general strike in Bridgeport," said Mrs. Scully.

"The American Federation of Labor has authorized us to use every means to clear this situation here, and a general strike in Bridgeport while one of the last resorts is likely to be called at any time if the conditions reported this morning are found to have foundation and the Manufacturers' Association persists in this policy," said Mrs. Scully.

T. M. Daley, president of the Metal Polishers and Buffers' union, arrived here today. A conference is being held by him this afternoon with John J. Flynn, vice president, over the Remington Arms plant situation. The entire executive committee will be here tomorrow to sit on the question.

L. B. Nickerson, freight agent here, communicated this morning with the Yellow Building in New Haven, in the effort to settle the freight handlers' strike here. He promised the men an answer this afternoon as to whether or not their demands will be granted. It is said it is costing 60 cents a ton to move freight, when the cost is ordinarily from 18 to 18 cents.

Ira M. Orsburn, organizer of the State Federation of Labor, wrote this morning to the commissioner of labor at Hartford, asking him to investigate the child labor conditions in this city.

Work of organizing the employees of the Max Ams Machine Co. in Fairfield began today.

The window washers' strike was settled. William Soika and John Czok were elected president and secretary of the new local of window washers.

The Bryant Electric Co. strike situation is dependent upon Waldo G. Bryant, with whom the strikers' committee is still seeking a conference.

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